

Serial No.: 09/964,306
Filed: September 26, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 18, 2002, the Examiner: (1) rejected claims 1-23 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith et al.* in view of *Hogan et al.* alone, or in combination with another reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that *Smith et al.* does not disclose "a connector attached to the top," adapted to "mate with a corresponding connector from a power supply module, inserted into the modular power supply unit," as required by independent claims 1 and 12 or a modular means for interconnecting AC input power to a power supply module, as required by independent claim 21. As the Examiner is no doubt aware, the claimed "modular means" invokes 35 USC § 112, sixth paragraph, which limits the claims to the structure and equivalents disclosed in the specification for performing the claimed function. However, Applicants disagree with the Examiner that *Hogan et al.* teaches these missing limitations. Referring to Figures 8 and 9 and col. 4, ll. 41-col. 5, ll. 48 of *Hogan et al.*, it is clear that while connectors (130, 110) are shown, the AC connector (110) is part of power supply module (18), and thus AC connector (110) is not adapted to mate with or connect to power supply module (18). In contrast, in Applicants' claimed invention, the modular AC section and power supply unit are separate components.

Therefore, Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 12, and 21 are allowable over the art of record, as well as their respective dependent claims.

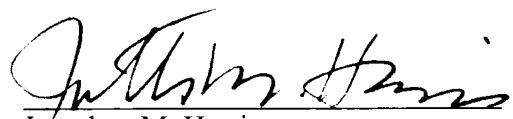
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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769/1662-39600/JMH and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan M. Harris
PTO Reg. No. 44,144
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS